1   In the claims:

2   1.   A computer readable medium, having programming executable on a computer, that

3   provides program content notification related to content available on a video and multimedia

4   program content distribution network, comprising:

5   a content availability notification module;

6   a notification data reception module, coupled to the content availability notification

7   module, that receives and processes notification data, wherein the notification data is used to

8   formulate and transmit one or more content availability notification messages;

9   a content schedule and availability analysis module, coupled to the notification data

10   reception module, that receives and processes one or more of content schedule and

11   availability of the program content available on the video and multimedia program content

12   distribution network and user content download requests, and produces processed schedule

13   and availability data;

14   a content download request analysis module, coupled to the notification data

15   reception module, that processes data from the user download requests for formatting and

16   routing one or more content notification availability forms;

17   a notification form builder, coupled to the content schedule and availability analysis

18   module, that receives the processed schedule and availability data, and generates a

19   notification form;

20   a notification form router, coupled to the notification form builder, that routes

21   notification data for transmission to a user; and

22   one or more notification modules that provide the program content notification.

23   2.   The computer readable medium of claim 1, wherein the one or more notification

24   modules comprise:

25   a user terminal notification module that provides an on-screen notification;

26   an email notification module that provides an email notification;

27   an instant messaging notification module that provides an instant text notification

28   message;

a pager and wireless notification module that provides one of a voice and a text notification message; and

an automated telephone notification module that provides a telephone message notification.

3. The computer readable medium of claim 2, wherein the on-screen notification includes one or more of an on-screen pop up window, an on-screen banner, an icon, and an audible message.

4. The computer readable medium of claim 3, wherein the on-screen notification is provided at one of a television and an computer display.

5. The computer readable medium of claim 4, wherein the on-screen notification includes a hyperlink to one or more programs.

6. The computer readable medium of claim 1, wherein the program content notification is provided until an acknowledgement is received by the content availability notification module.

7. The computer readable medium of claim 6, wherein the program content notification is provided continually.

8. The computer readable medium of claim 6, wherein the program content notification is provided periodically.

9. The computer readable medium of claim 1, wherein the one or more notification modules provide the program content notification

10. The computer readable medium of claim 1, further comprising a user data analysis module, coupled to the notification data reception module, that receives and processes user profile data.

11. The computer readable medium of claim 1, wherein the notification data are contained in a program content download request.

12. The computer readable medium of claim 1, further comprising a user's profile and history file, wherein the notification data are contained in the user's profile and history file.

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1   13.   The computer readable medium of claim 1, wherein the notification data includes the

2   method of delivery of the program content notification.

3   14.   A method for notifying users of availability of video and digital multimedia program

4   content in a video and multimedia program content distribution network, comprising:

5   receiving a program content request, wherein the request specifies desired program

6   content for delivery to a user terminal;

7   receiving information related to availability of the desired program content;

8   determining a notification protocol to notify the user terminal of the availability of the

9   desired program content;

10   analyzing the information related to the availability of the desired program content;

11   generating a notification form; and

12   routing the notification form to one or more notification modules, wherein the one or

13   more notification modules transmit a program content availability notification.

14   15.   The method of claim 14, wherein the step of determining the notification protocol

15   comprises analyzing a user history and profile file.

16   16.   The method of claim 14, wherein the step of determining the notification protocol

17   comprises analyzing a program content download request.

18   17.   The method of claim 14, wherein the notification protocol comprises one or more of

19   delivery of an on-screen prompt, an email message, a wireless message, an instant text

20   message, an audio message, and an automated telephone message.

21   18.   The method of claim 14, further comprising repeating the program content

22   availability notification until an acknowledgement is received.

23   19.   The method of claim 18, wherein the acknowledgement is received at the user

24   terminal.

25   20.   A system that provides program content notification related to content available on a

26   video and multimedia program content distribution network, comprising:

1   means for receiving program notification data, wherein the receiving means receives

2   and processes notification data, wherein the notification data is used to formulate and

3   transmit one or more content availability notification messages;

4   means for analyzing program content schedule and availability, coupled to the

5   receiving means, wherein the means for analyzing program content schedule and availability

6   receives and processes one or more of content schedule and availability of the program

7   content available on the video and multimedia program content distribution network and user

8   content download requests, and produces processed schedule and availability data;

9   means for analyzing a program content download request, coupled to the receiving

10   means, wherein the means for analyzing a program content download request processes data

11   from the user download requests for formatting and routing one or more content notification

12   availability forms;

13   means for generating a notification form, coupled to the means for analyzing content

14   schedule and availability, wherein the generating means receives the processed schedule and

15   availability data, and generates a notification form;

16   means for routing the notification form, coupled to the generating means, wherein the

17   routing means routes notification data for transmission to a user; and

18   means for providing the program content notification.

19   21.   The system of claim 20, wherein the means for providing the program content

20   notification comprises:

21   means for providing an on-screen notification;

22   means for providing an email notification;

23   means for providing an instant text notification message;

24   means for providing a wireless voice and a text notification message; and

25   means for providing an automated telephone message notification.

26   22.   The system of claim 21, wherein the on-screen notification includes one or more of

27   an on-screen pop up window, an on-screen banner, an icon, and an audible message.

1   23.   The system of claim 22, wherein the on-screen notification is provided at one of a
2   television and an computer display.

3   24.   The system of claim 23, wherein the on-screen notification includes a hyperlink to
4   one or more programs.

5   25.   The system of claim 20, wherein the program content notification is provided until an
6   acknowledgement is received by the receiving means.

7   26.   The system of claim 25, wherein the program content notification is provided
8   continually.

9   27.   The system of claim 25, wherein the program content notification is provided
10   periodically.

11   28.   The system of claim 20, further comprising means of analyzing user data, coupled to
12   the receiving means, wherein the means for analyzing user data receives and processes user
13   profile data.

14   29.   The system of claim 20, wherein the notification data are contained in a program
15   content download request.

16   30.   The system of claim 20, further comprising a user's profile and history file, wherein
17   the notification data are contained in the user's profile and history file.

18   31.   The system of claim 20, wherein the notification data includes the method of delivery
19   of the program content notification.